

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:REBUTLER:REB
APPROVED BY PA/M:REHECKLINGER
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
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PA, S/S, S/PRS

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O 101540Z AUG 76 ZFF4
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UNCLAS STATE 197970 TOSEC 200268

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, NMOL, ETRD, IR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIAL TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, HEADED "GUNS FOR OIL."
2. TRADE IS INHERENTLY HEALTHY. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INCREASES REGARDLESS OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED, ARE USUALLY GOOD NEWS. BUT THE JOINT IRANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNIQUE OF SATURDAY ROUGHLY TREBLING THE ESTIMATE OF TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR THE SIX YEARS ENDING IN 1980 IS A DISQUIETING EXCEPTION. UNLIKE MOST TRADE INCREASES, IT IS A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN WEAKNESS AND NOT STRENGTH. THE UNITED STATES IS STEPPING UP ITS DEPENDENCE ON IRANIAN OIL AND PAYING FOR IT WITH MORE MODERN WEAPONRY THAN IS GOOD FOR IRAN OR THE WORLD
3. THE ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY SHAH MOHAMMED RIZA PAHLEVI AND SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER ARE SOUND IN PRINCIPLE. SINCE BRITAIN WITHDREW MILITARILY FROM THE PERSIAN GULF, IRAN HAS REPLACED IT AS THE PARAMOUNT POWER AND FORCE FOR STABILITY THERE. IT IS A COUNTERWEIGHT BOTH TO THE

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SOVIET UNION ON ITS NORTHERN BORDER AND THE LESSER POWERS

WITH SOVIET ARMS IN BOTH THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND CENTRAL

ASIA. IRAN IS A VALUED ALLY. WHAT IS FRIGHTENING IS THE SCALE OF ARMAMENT, ROUGHLY 2 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH A YEAR IN SEEMING PERPETUITY.

4. A STAFF REPORT FROM THE SENATE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE SUB-COMMITTEE ANGERED THE SHAH BY SUGGESTING THAT IRAN CANNOT OPERATE THE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS IT ALREADY HAS WITHOUT AMERICAN PERSONNEL. THIS IS PROBABLY TRUE FOR THE TIME BEING, ALTHOUGH THE INFERENCE THAT IRAN HAS LOST POLICY INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE UNTRUE. IRAN IS NO AMERICAN PUPPET. THE SHAH'S LEADERSHIP IN OPEC PRICE-GOUGING IS PROOF OF THAT. WHILE IT IS BOTH STABLE AND BASICALLY FRIENDLY, NO ONE CAN GUARANTEE BOTH CONDITIONS INDEFINITELY. MEANWHILE, VASTLY INCREASED ARMAMENTS FOR IRAN ONLY WHETS THE ARMS APPETITES OF IRAN'S NEIGHBORS AND NEAR-NEIGHBORS, BOTH SOVIET AND SOVIET-SUPPLIED, PROVOKING WHAT IT IS MEANT TO OFFSET.

5. IRAN HAS BOUGHT BEYOND ITS MEANS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, OVER-ESTIMATING ITS OIL WEALTH. ENCOURAGING IT TO CONTINUE DOING SO WILL AT LEAST RECYCLE PETRO-DOLLARS. THE ESTIMATE OF 14 BILLION DOLLARS IN OIL IMPORTS FROM IRAN IS A TRIBUTE TO THE FAILURE OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE A GENUINE CONSERVATION POLICY. AMERICA'S WASTE OF ENERGY IS FUELING IRAN'S DELUSIONS OF MILITARY GRANDEUR. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE197970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REBUTLER:REB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760307-0829
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760868/aaaachbw.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, ENRG, ETRD, MASS, IR, US, BALTIMORE SUN
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006